

REMARKS

II. 35 USC § 112

The rejection of claim 14 has been obviated by appropriate amendment.

III. 35 USC § 103

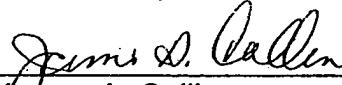
Claims 1 - 37 stand rejected on a combination of references that include Nakajima (U.S. Publication No. 2001/0048802). Nakajima was filed on April 19, 2001, which is more than three months past Applicants' filing date. Nakajima is not prior art under any section of 35 USC § 102 and thus can not properly form a basis for any rejection under 35 USC § 103.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

IV. CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks and amendments above, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance. If any issues remain, Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned to expedite the allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Collins
Reg. No. 43,557
Attorney for Applicants

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
Chicago, IL 60610
(312) 321-4200